

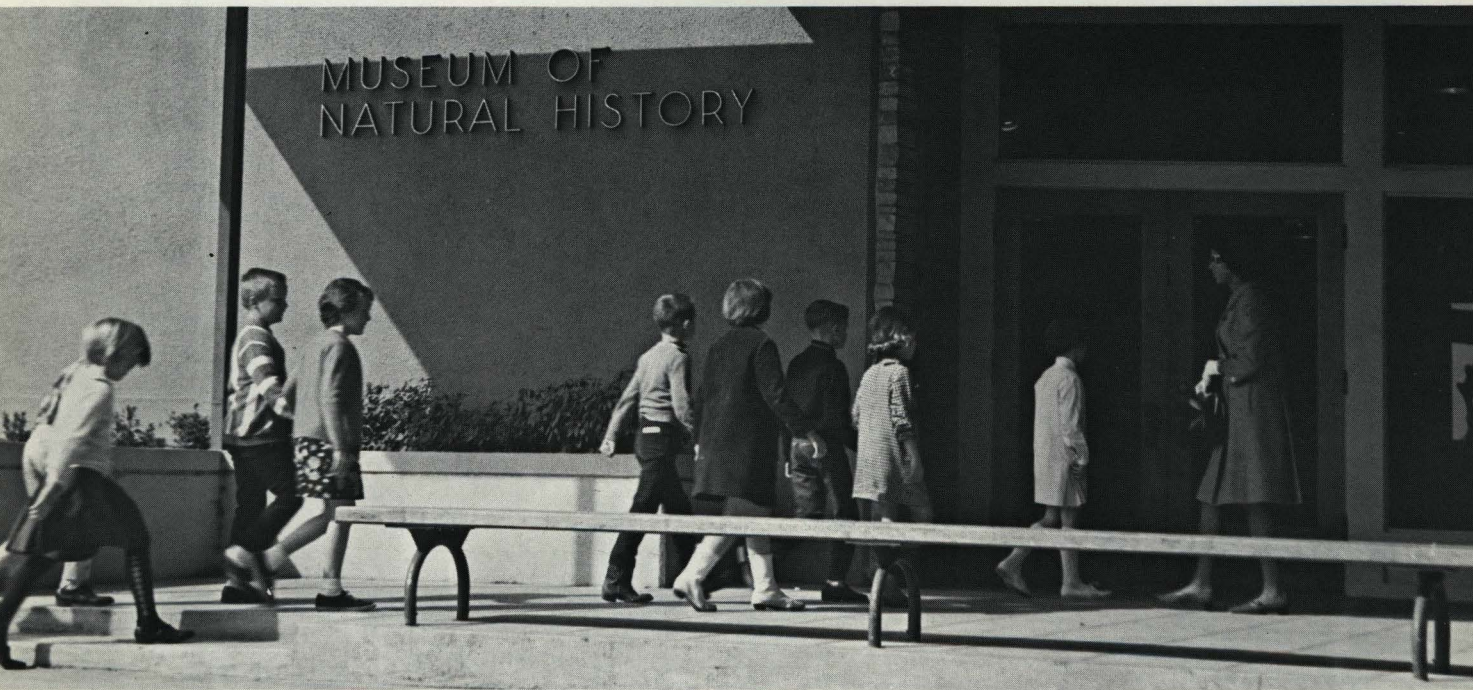
UNIVERSITY OF OREGON : MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY : ITS OWN STORY : BULLETIN NO. 7

The *Bulletin* of the Museum of Natural History of the University of Oregon is published to increase the knowledge and understanding of the natural history of Oregon. Original articles in the fields of Archaeology, Botany, Ethnology, Geology, Paleontology, and Zoology appear irregularly in consecutively numbered issues. Contributions arise primarily from the research programs and collections of the Museum of Natural History and the Oregon State Museum of Anthropology. However, in keeping with the basic purpose of the publication, contributions are not restricted to these sources and are both technical and popular in character.

DAVID L. COLE, *Acting Director*
LAURENCE R. KITTLEMAN, *Editor*
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Communications concerning manuscripts and purchase of copies of the *Bulletin* should be addressed to the Museum of Natural History, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon 97403. A list of previous issues of the *Bulletin* is printed inside the back cover.

MUSEUM OF
NATURAL HISTORY





Its own story: Through the doorway of the Museum of Natural History come many visitors. Inside are displays which contain materials arranged to interpret various aspects of nature. Each display

tells its own story. Displays range from the phenomena of vulcanism to the ways of life of the earliest known residents of Oregon, each designed by an expert on the subject. Here is an opportunity to learn by seeing.



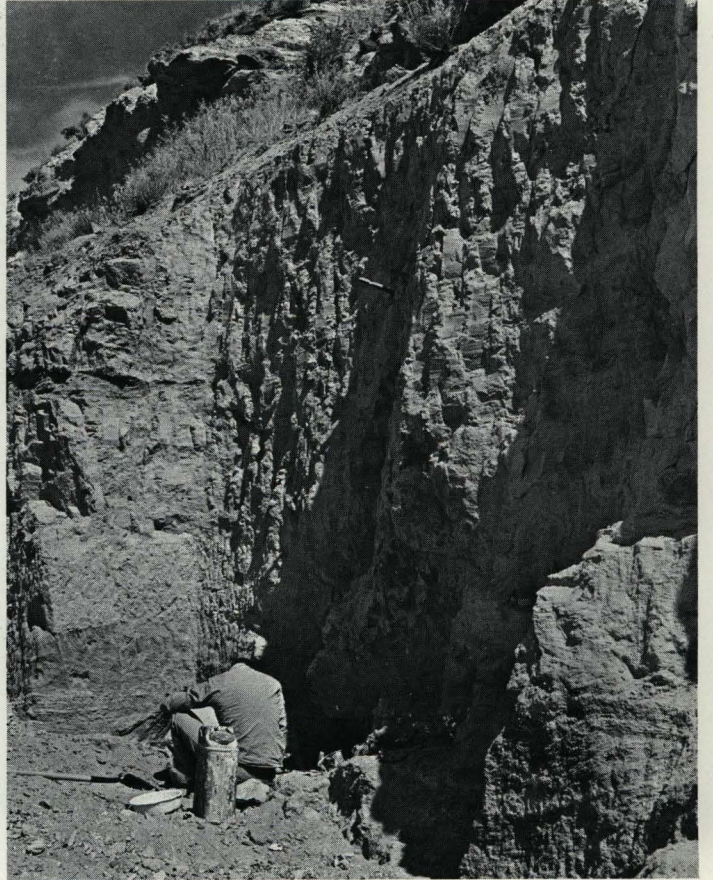
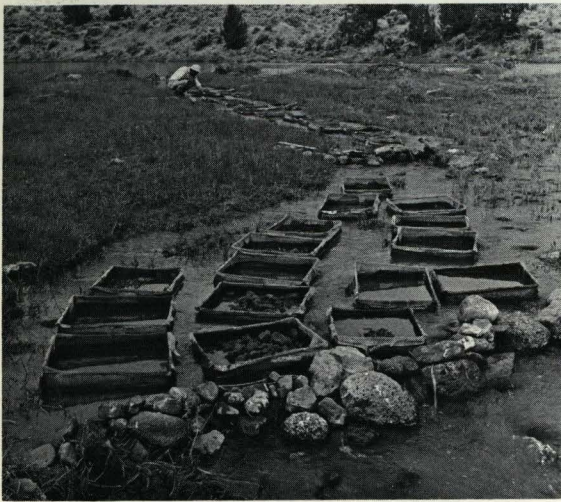
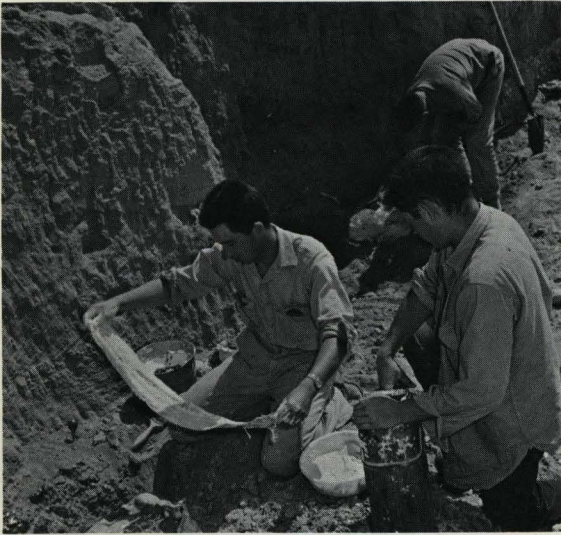
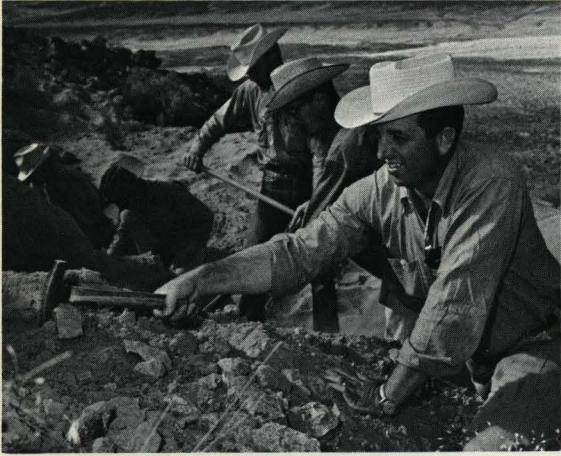


The lab: Oregon is our laboratory. Her forests, waters, and great open spaces hold vast resources of new knowledge and understanding of natural history—history of the land itself, its vegetation, its first peo-

ple, and its fauna. It is here that the process of learning must begin. But only carefully planned field work can produce the specimens and facts surrounding their occurrence that will lead to new knowledge.









Its history: The origin of the Museum of Natural History can be traced to the work of Dr. Thomas Condon, a clergyman and pioneer naturalist who came to Oregon shortly after 1850. Condon began collecting artifacts, fossils, and zoological specimens and he maintained active associations with other naturalists and exchanged specimens with them. When the University of Oregon opened in 1876, Dr. Condon was the first professor of geology, and he brought his collections with him to use in teaching. The University catalog for the years 1898 and 1899 says, under the heading of Geology (in part): "Professor Condon gives all the courses. . . . Students will have free access to Professor Condon's great museum." Condon's collections were left in the care of the University and are now part of the Museum of Natural History. The specimens, collected more than 100 years ago, have not lost their significance, but are still sought out and studied by scientists. A number are on display at the present time.

For many years after the turn of the century, the individual natural-historical collections were dispersed among the various academic departments interested in maintaining them. The Museum of Zoology was established in the early years and grew rapidly in the decade from 1915 to 1925 through the collecting activities of Alfred C. Shelton. Professor Ralph R. Huestis was curator for many years, until his retirement in 1961. The Herbarium was established in 1908 as a part of the Department of Botany, under the direction of Professor A. R. Sweetser. The Herbarium was directed by Professor Louis F. Henderson from 1924 until his retirement in 1939, and by Dr. LeRoy E. Detling from 1939 until his death in 1967.

In 1935 the Oregon State Museum of Anthropology was established by the legislature, and the following year the anthropological, zoological, and paleontological collections were combined into the Museum of Natural History by the State Board of Higher Education. Professor Luther S. Cressman was appointed director and continued in that position until his retirement in 1963.

Study of vertebrate paleontology at the Museum was revived in 1949 by Professor J. Arnold Shotwell. His innovative

studies of paleontology and paleoecology of fossil mammals immeasurably expanded our knowledge of the natural history of Oregon. Professor Shotwell was appointed director in 1963, when the Museum was reorganized into its present form, and held the post until 1971. He added programs in paleoecology, paleobotany, and geology through the addition of new personnel, giving substantial impetus to the Museum and its collections.

The Museum today: Years ago museums acquired the reputation, too often richly deserved, of being dusty, badly lighted, artlessly arranged collections of curiosities. Such collections are not of much scientific or educational value, and the bad impression they make is not deserved by modern, professionally managed museums, no matter what their elegance or emphasis. A museum, in the best sense of the word, is much more than assemblages of objects placed on display for the public. Few visitors to the display area realize what variety and number of activities must go on in workrooms and laboratories so that the exhibits can be created to be pleasing and technically accurate. The photographs in this booklet give an impression of these activities.

To begin with, specimens must be collected. It is still true of many branches of natural science that the outdoors is the most important laboratory, but it is not the only laboratory. Facts about natural objects that are easy to learn have been learned already. To gain further information, plants, fossils, artifacts, and animals have to be probed with instruments, examined, analyzed mathematically. Mere gathering of things into collections is not the objective. The objective rather is to extract from specimens knowledge about development of the landscape, the evolution of living things, or the relationships of creatures to their environment. So it is that, as a museum collection grows, our knowledge of natural history grows, but, perhaps more importantly, when the collector is finished and his specimens enter a museum collection, their scientific importance does not end—it is just beginning. The specimens and facts about them, numbered and cataloged, are available to any scholar, whether a student seeing such specimens for the first

time or a renowned expert seeking the key to some special problem. Specimens can be taken from a museum collection many years after they were obtained and put to new uses never dreamed of by the original collector. The curator, the person who studies, enlarges, and cares for a particular collection, is custodian of an irreplaceable natural resource, whose future value cannot be predicted and is limited only by the imaginations of future scientists.

The Museum of Natural History houses important collections in the fields of anthropology, archaeology, botany, geology, invertebrate paleontology, malacology, mammalogy, ornithology, paleobotany, palynology, and vertebrate paleontology. These collections and associated facilities are contained in six different buildings scattered about the northern part of the University of Oregon campus. The principal Museum building, located in the complex of science buildings just south of Franklin Boulevard, contains the display area and business office, as well as some of the storage facilities, laboratories, and staff offices.

Major divisions of the Museum are the Oregon State Museum of Anthropology, the Herbarium, the Museum of Zoology, and the Condon Museum of Geology, and there are many less formal activities and programs. The Museum holds an unequaled collection of fossil mammals from the late Tertiary deposits of the northern Great Basin assembled by Professor Shottwell. It has outstanding collections of fossil and modern pollen and a large collection of artifacts from the interior of the Pacific Northwest. The Museum is the lawful depository for antiquities found on federal or state lands in Oregon, and is the seat of the Oregon Archaeological Survey. Among other notable collections are the following:

- A. G. Prill collections of bird skins, birds' eggs, and marine mollusks
- A. C. Shelton collection of mammal skins and skeletons
- R. R. Huestis collection of rodent skeletons
- Thomas Howell botanical collection
- W. C. Cusick botanical collection
- W. N. Suksdorf botanical collection
- L. E. Detling collection of the Willamette fossil flora

Paul Van de Velde African ethnographic collection

Mrs. Isaac L. Patterson collection of native American basketry

Ada B. Millican North American ethnographic collection

Louis McArthur North American ethnographic collection

Mrs. Vincent Cook collection of North American ethnography

E. H. East collection of Burmese ethnography

Altogether, the Museum of Natural History has accessioned about 650 collections.

The display area of the Museum is open daily and is visited by individuals of all ages, groups, classes from elementary and high schools, and classes from the University. The small size of the display area permits only a small fraction of the Museum's collections to be exhibited, but it does not limit other uses of the collections. The major collections are continually enlarged by their curators or other specialists, and the specimens are used in teaching and research at the University and are loaned both to public schools and to scholars at other universities. Members of the staff examine and if possible identify artifacts, fossils, and rocks brought to the Museum for identification.

Various programs of research, sponsored mainly by federal grants, are related to the specialties and interests of members of the staff. In recent years vertebrate paleontology, paleobotany, paleoecology, archaeology, regional botany, and volcanic geology have been emphasized. This work is made possible by specialized laboratories and other facilities. Noteworthy are the facilities for the obsidian-hydration technique of dating artifacts, instituted by Dr. LeRoy Johnson, Jr.; facilities for research on fossil pollen; and facilities for field-work and research in archaeology and vertebrate paleontology.

Thus it is that the work of the Museum goes on, some of it manifested in exhibits, some in the field, and some in the laboratory. This booklet provides an introduction, mainly through photographs, to the many and varied facets of the Museum of Natural History.

**Staff of the Museum of Natural History
1972-1973**

SALARIED ACADEMIC STAFF

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Jane Gray, Ph.D., Professor of Biology, Curator of Paleobotany

Laurence R. Kittleman, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Curator of Geology

Georgia Mason, M.S., Assistant Professor, Acting Curator of the Herbarium

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Wolfgang Hammann, Ph.D., Visiting Post-Doctoral Fellow, Paläontologisches Insti-
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Florida State University

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John Faulhaber, Curatorial Aide (Work-Study Program)

Sherilyn Reyna, Assistant

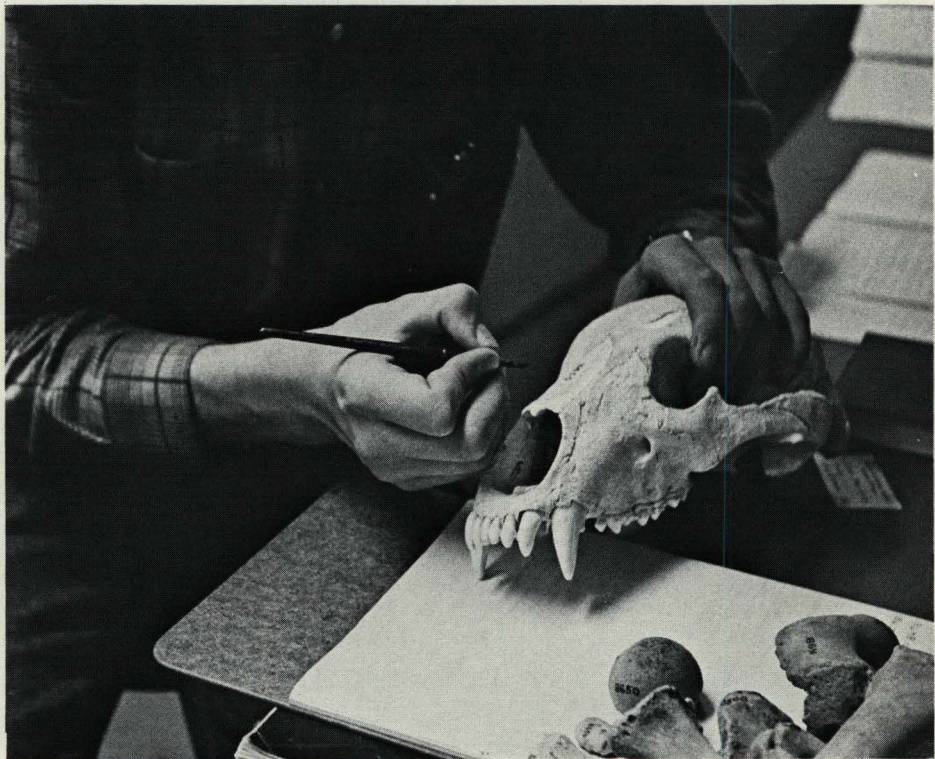
Caroline Walker, Museum Attendant (Work-Study Program)

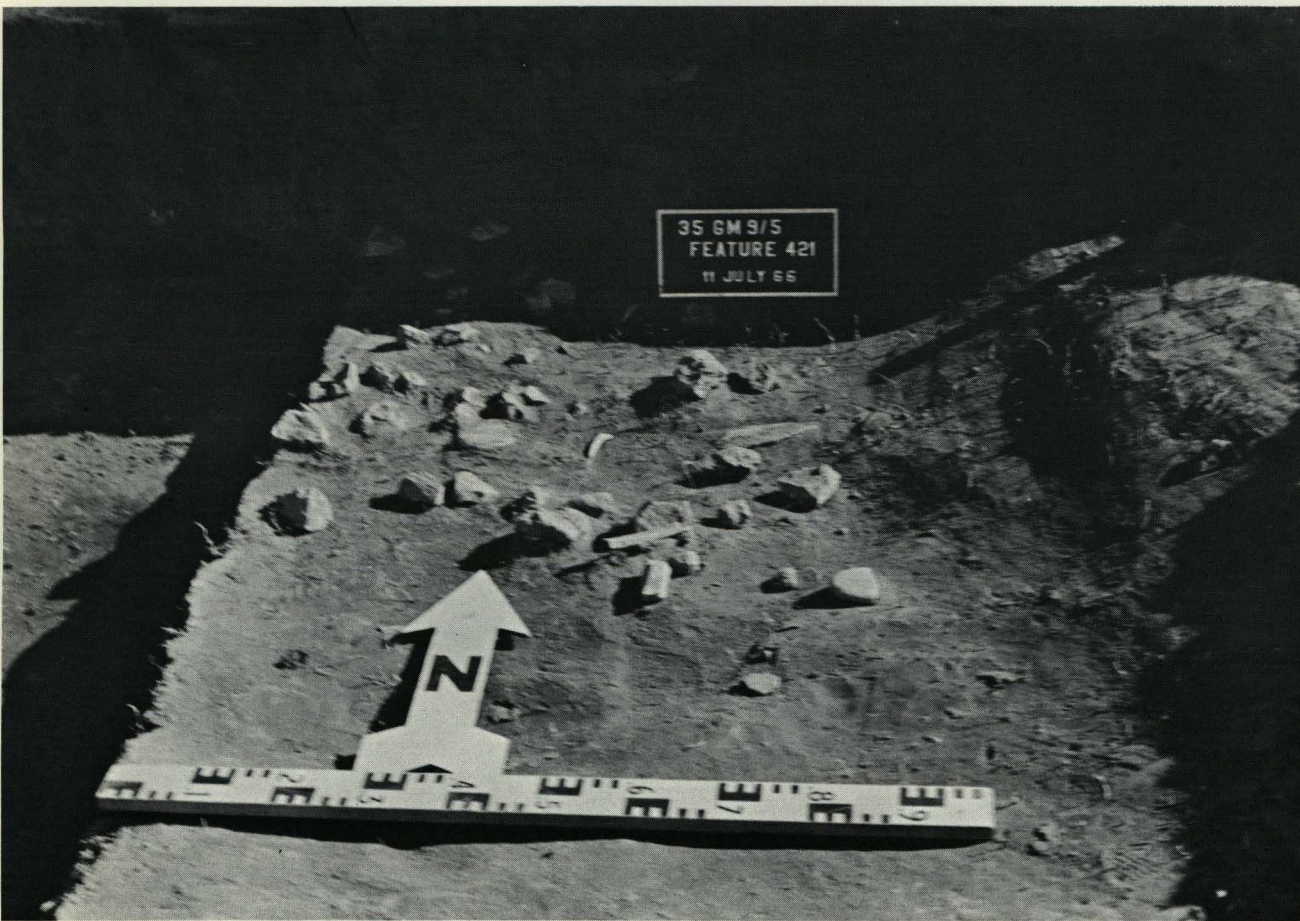
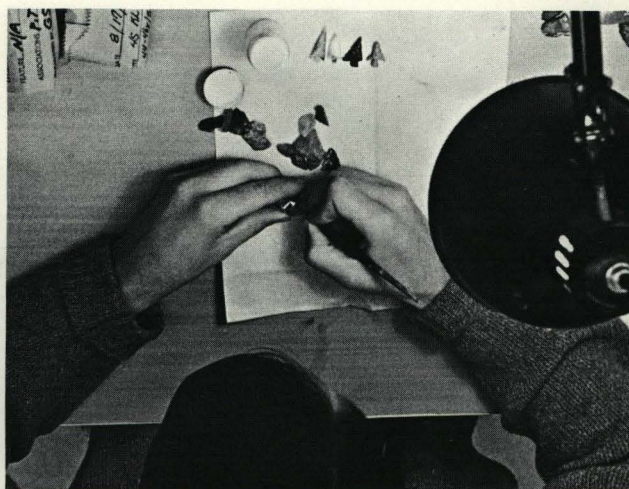
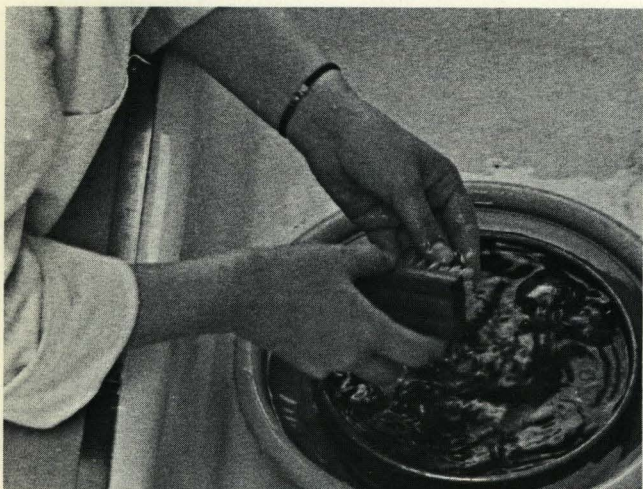
Jill Warrington, Assistant

Russell Wilson, Curatorial Aide (Work-Study Program)

DOCENT

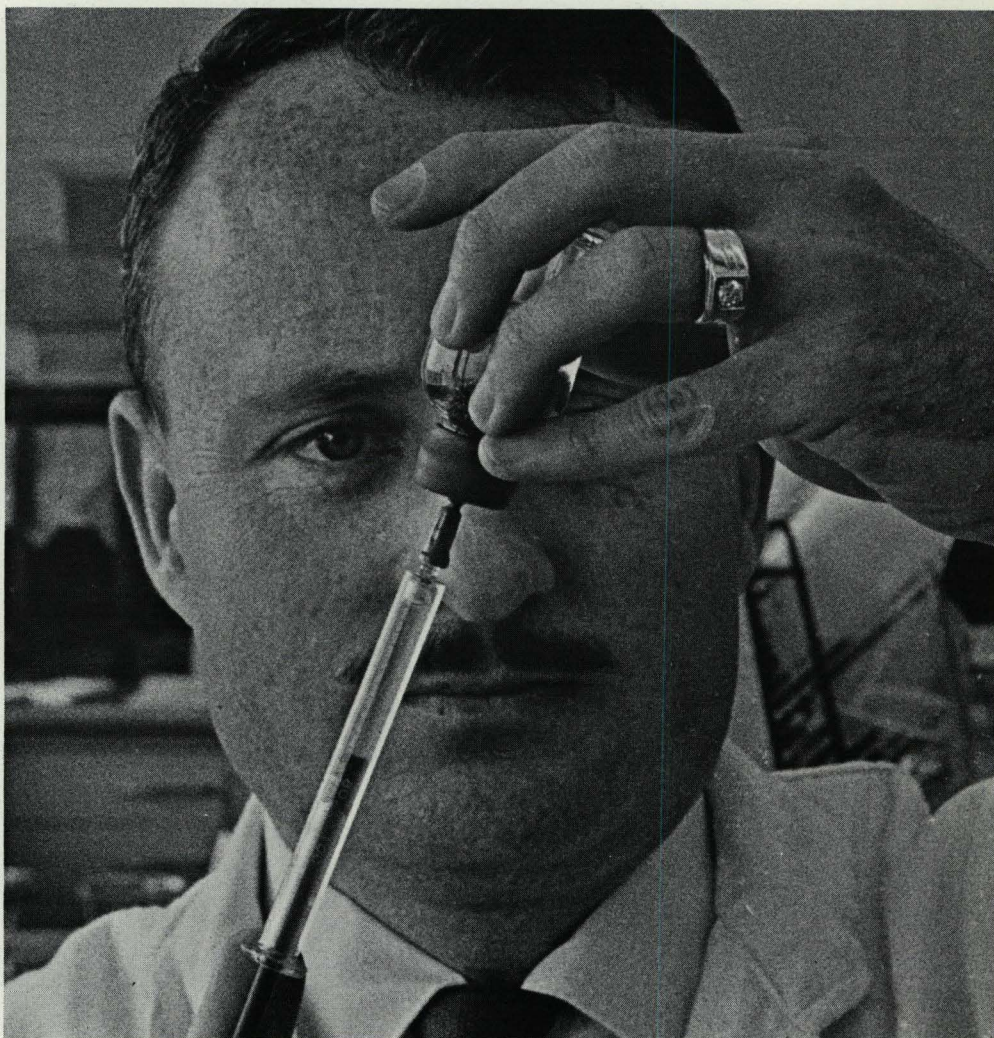
Albert L. Williams

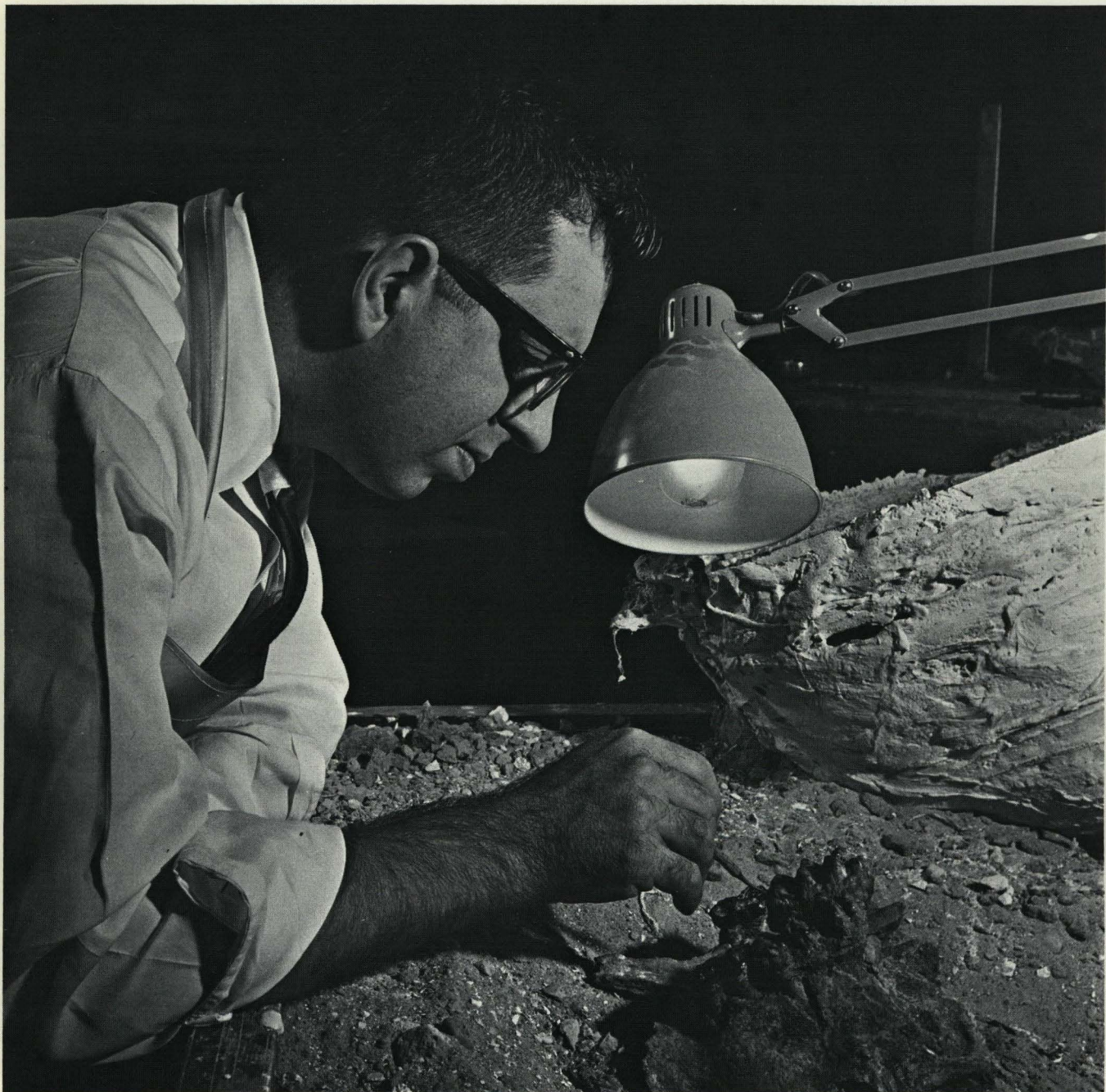




The laboratory: The Museum is also a laboratory, a scholar's workshop. Here specimens take on meaning. Patterns of occurrence, sequences of development and relationships to our existing knowledge are

searched for by the archaeologist, botanist, geologist, paleontologist or zoologist. His tools are knowledge, experience, and imagination. From these efforts come new ideas, new understanding, and new problems.





A treasure house: Stored in the Museum are the more than one quarter million specimens representing previous work, some collected over one hundred years ago. Carefully labeled, they form a growing treasury which can be drawn upon again and again

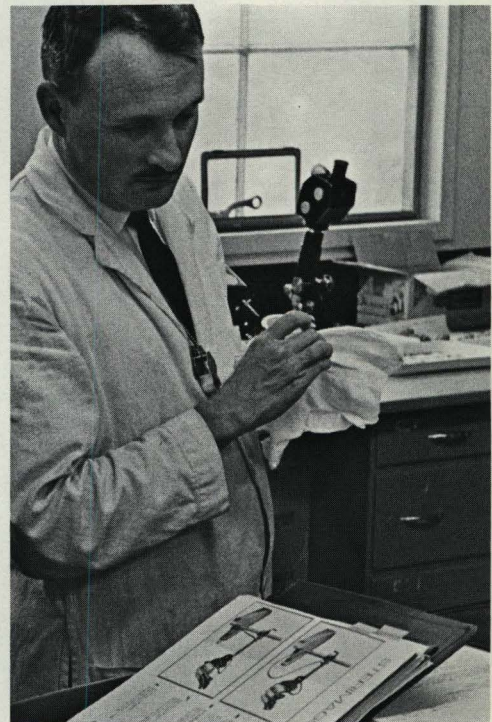
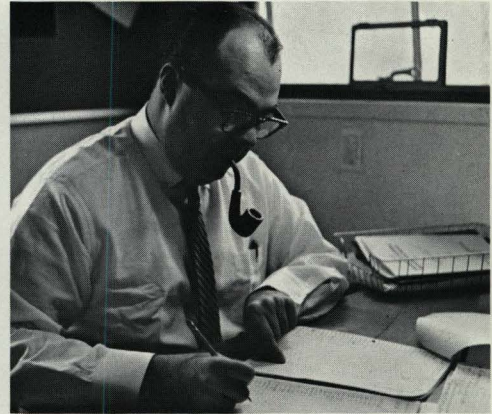
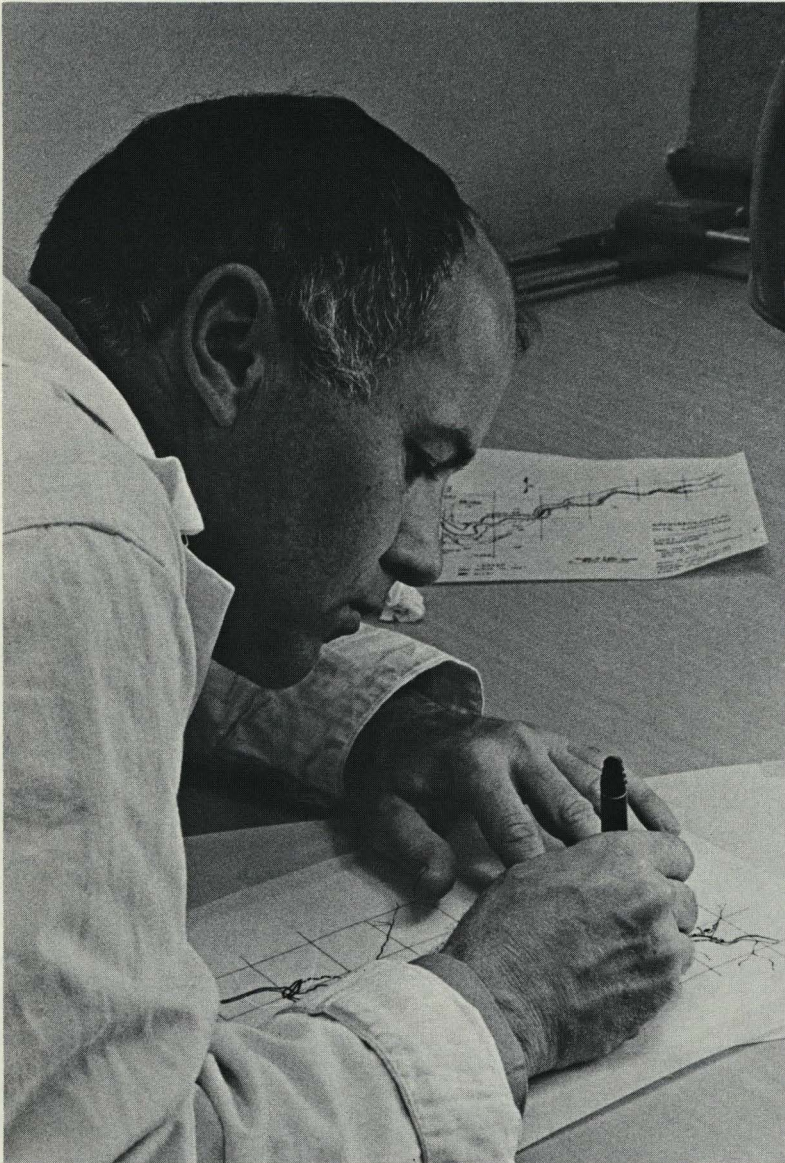
to re-examine old ideas or provide the basis for new studies by future natural scientists. These plants, artifacts, fossils, and rocks are a record of the priceless natural heritage of Oregon. Many cannot be replaced. They represent life or people now gone.

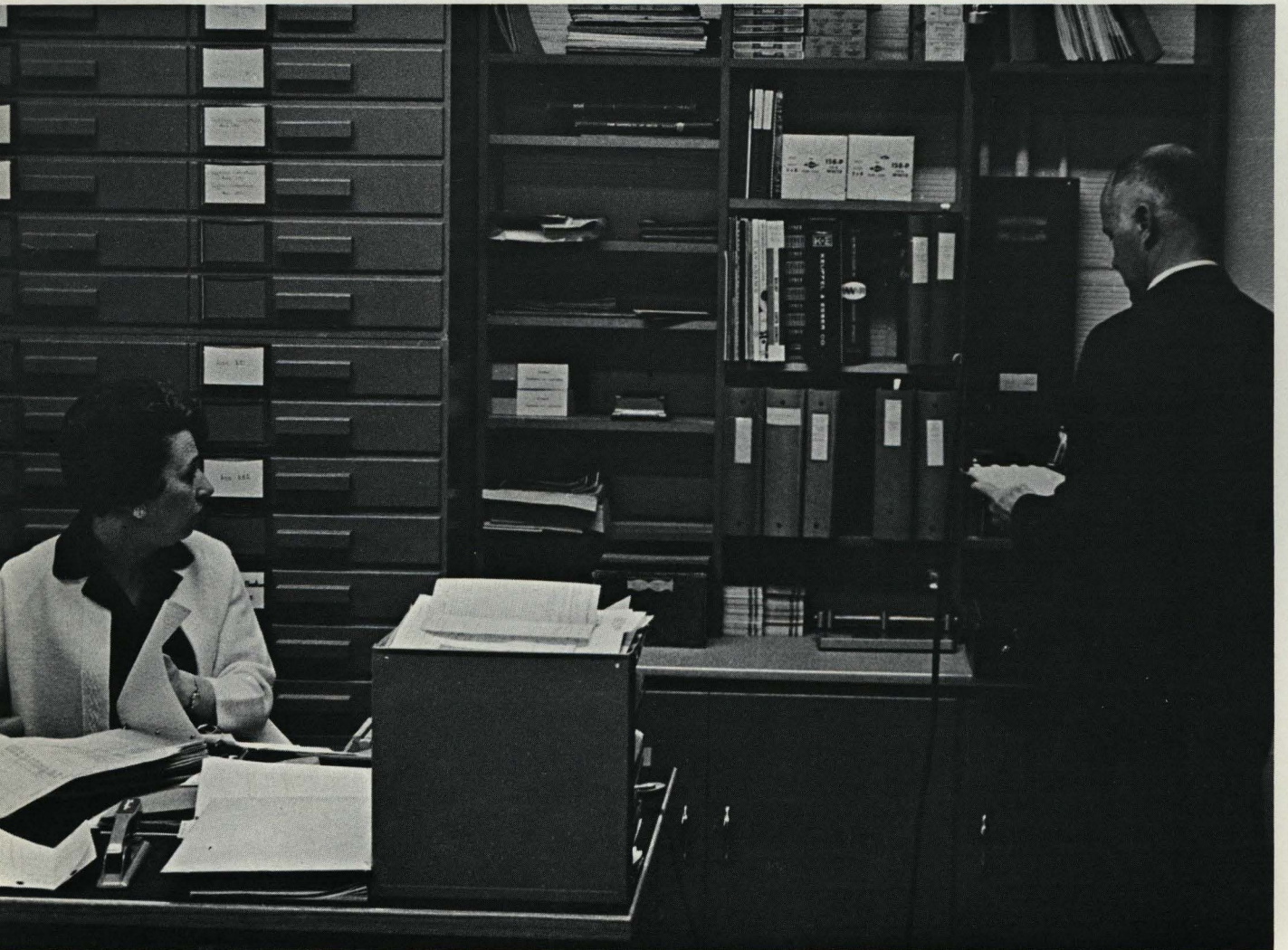
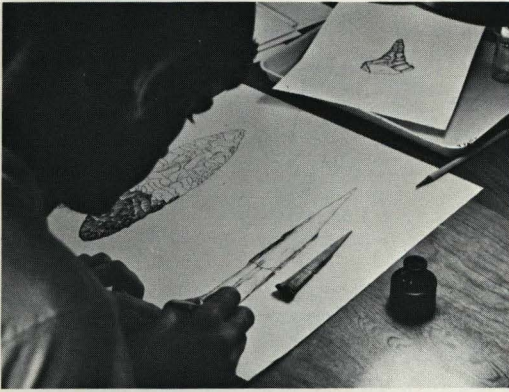




Communication: The transmission of knowledge is a basic job of the Museum. It may take the form of a display, an answer to a letter from a student in Vernonia or a rancher in Jordan Valley, a talk with a visi-

tor from Gold Beach, a lecture to a class of University students or a Museum publication. This then is the cycle of the Museum of Natural History—from materials to interpretation, and then to communication.





Its own story:

Adapted from an essay by Harvey Rice.

Design by George Beltran.

Photographs by :

Harvey Rice, pages 1, 2, 3, 10, and 12 thru 16;

David Cole, pages 8 and 9;

Bernard Freemesser, pages 4 thru 7, and page 11.



PUBLICATIONS
of the Museum of Natural History
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

<i>Bulletins</i>	<i>Titles</i>	<i>Price</i>
No. 1	Cenozoic Stratigraphy of the Owyhee Region, Southeastern Oregon, by L. R. Kittleman and others; 45 pages, 9 plates, 11 figures, December 1965	\$1.50
No. 2	Notes on Some Upper Miocene Shrews from Oregon, by J. H. Hutchison; 23 pages, 17 figures, March 1966	\$1.25
No. 3	A New Archaic Cetacean from the Oligocene of Northwest Oregon, by Douglas Emlong; 51 pages, 15 figures, October 1966	\$1.50
No. 4	The Archaeology of a Late Prehistoric Village in Northwestern California, by Frank C. Leonhardy; 41 pages, 17 figures, March 1967	\$1.00
No. 5	<i>Peromyscus</i> of the Late Tertiary in Oregon, by J. Arnold Shotwell; 35 pages, 11 figures, June 1967	\$1.25
No. 6	Ethnomalacology and Paleoecology of the Round Butte Archaeological Sites, Deschutes River Basin, Oregon, by Ernest J. Roscoe; 20 pages, 4 figures, July 1967	\$.75
No. 7	Its Own Story: The Museum of Natural History; 20 pages	no charge
No. 8	Geologic Map of the Owyhee Region, Malheur County, Oregon, by L. R. Kittleman and others; scale, 1:125,000 (1/2 inch equals 1 mile), September 1967	\$2.00
No. 9	Late Tertiary Geomyoid Rodents of Oregon, by J. Arnold Shotwell; 51 pages, 28 figures, November 1967	\$1.25
No. 10	Refinements in Computerized Item Seriation, by W. B. Craytor and LeRoy Johnson, Jr.; 22 pages, 6 figures, March 1968	\$.75
No. 11	Fossil Talpidae (Insectivora, Mammalia) from the Tertiary of Oregon, by J. H. Hutchison; 117 pages, 98 figures, July 1968	\$1.25
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No. 15	Item Seriation as an Aid for Elementary Scale and Cluster Analysis, by LeRoy Johnson, Jr.; 46 pages, 19 figures, September 1968	\$1.50
No. 16	The Oligocene Marine Molluscan Fauna of the Eugene Formation in Oregon, by Carole Jean Stentz Hickman; 112 pages, 14 plates, 4 figures, August 1969	\$2.50
No. 17	Pliocene Mammals of Southeast Oregon and Adjacent Idaho, by J. Arnold Shotwell; 103 pages, 42 figures, August 1970	\$2.00
No. 18	<i>Smilodonichthys rastrosus</i> , a New Pliocene Salmonid Fish from Western United States, by Ted M. Cavender and Robert Rush Miller; 44 pages, 14 figures, March 1972	\$1.50
No. 19	Journal of First Trip of University of California to John Day Beds of Eastern Oregon by Loye Miller, edited by J. Arnold Shotwell; 21 pages, 7 figures, 1 map, December 1972	\$1.00

